GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:714
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2000
THEFT OF ANTIQUES
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Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thefts of antiques are rising now a days ;

(b) if so, the number of case of thefts reported during the last three years, State - wise;

(c) the number of antiques recovered State - wise ; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such thefts ?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a) Government are aware of a few cases of theft of antiquities.

(b) The number of case of thefts reported during the last three years, State - wise are :

(1) Andhra Pradesh 1
(2) Delhi 1
(3) Gujarat 1
(4) Karnataka 1
(5) Madhya Pradesh 9
(6) Rajasthan 13
(7) Tamil Nadu 1
(8) Uttar Pradesh 4

(c) The number of antiquities recovered during the last three years, State - wise is as follows -

(1) Madhya Pradesh 40
(2) Rajasthan 3
(3) Uttar Pradesh 7

(d) Measures have been taken by the Archaeological Survey of India in concert with the enforcing agencies like the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Central Bureau of Investigation, Customs and the State Governments to check the theft of antiquities by intensifying checking at customs exit points, as well as by strict enforcement of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. Armed Guards have also been deployed at the selected centrally protected monuments and museums under the Archaeological Survey of India.